

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08
NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 /113 W
-----220554Z 046134 /17

R 211403Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4141
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6731

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, EAID, EG, GW
SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT: LIBYAN DEMARCHE TO FRG GOVT

REF: BONN 06805

1. FRG AMBASSADOR STELTZER TALKED TO ME TODAY ABOUT FRG'S DOUBTS RE CONTINUING WITH QATTARA DEPRESSION STUDIES. HE STATED PRINCIPAL REASON IS GERMAN AUTHORITIES' VIEW THAT EXCAVATION BY CONVENTIONAL MEANS IS UNECONOMIC AND RECOGNITION OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN NUCLEAR EXCAVATION. EGYPTIAN MINELECTRICITY AND ENERGY HAS JUST RETURNED FROM BONN AND HAS ASKED TO SEE STELTZER URGENTLY BEFORE THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE ON FRIDAY ON LEAVE.

2. STELTZER ALSO TOLD ME THAT FRG CHARGE IN TRIPOLI HAD BEEN SUMMONED LAST WEEK BY LIBYAN MFA AND ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT NUCLEAR EXCAVATION WAS BEING CONSIDERED FOR QATTARA PROJECT. LIBYANS HAD INDICATED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT ANY SUCH EXCAVATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS. THEY HAD ASKED FOR INFORMATION. ACCORDING TO STELTZER, LIBYAN
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DEMARCHE MADE NO REFERENCE TO CURRENT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN TENSIONS, BUT HE DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN BEHIND IT.

3. STELTZER STATES THAT FRG AUTHORITIES ARE NOW DRAFTING A FACTUAL REPLY TO GIVE TO THE LIBYANS IN ANSWER TO THEIR DEMARCHE. HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS

NECESSARY TO ADVISE GOE OF THE LIBYAN DEMARCHE OR OF
WHATEVER REPLY FRG GIVES.

4. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, INDICATION THAT FRG MAY HAVE PROBLEMS
SELLING ITS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON THE QATTARA PROJECT HERE IN CAIRO.
UPON HIS RETURN FROM BONN APRIL 20, AHMAD SULTAN, DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY, ANNOUNCED THAT
STUDIES PRESENTED BY EGYPT REGARDING
DIGGING OF THE QATTARA DEPRESSION CANAL "WITH
CONTAMINATION-FREE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES" HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY
JOINT EGYPTIAN/WEST GERMAN HIGHER QATTARA DEPRESSION GUIDANCE
COMMITTEE. SULTAN'S STATEMENT CLEARLY INDICATES CONTINUED HIGH
EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN THE PROJECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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